

Remarks

Claims 1-42 are pending, and claims 1-42 stand rejected. Claims 1, 11, 14, 17, 21, and 26 are amended by this Response. Claims 8, 18, 25, and 30-42 are cancelled without prejudice by this Response. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request allowance of claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-24, and 26-29.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner on page 2 of the Office action objected to an amendment by the Applicants in the preliminary amendment. In particular, the Examiner objected to the Applicants amending the paragraph in the original specification on page 4 beginning on line 18. The Applicants have added that paragraph back into the specification in this Response and ask the Examiner to remove the objection.

§ 102 Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 9-11, 18, 20, 21, 26, 31, 34, 37, and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent number 5,613,006 (Reese). The Applicants cancelled claims 31, 34, 37, and 40. The Applicants submit that claims 1, 9-11, 18, 20, 21, 26 are novel over Reese.

As amended, claim 11 provides the following limitations:

receive a first call set-up message requesting an incoming call be extended to a terminal of the plurality of terminals in said call center, wherein said incoming call is a voice call from a telephone set to a TDD/TYY device or a TDD/TYY call from a TDD/TYY device to a telephone set,

transmit an available terminal request to said call controller, wherein said available terminal request includes an indication whether said incoming call is a voice call to a TDD/TYY device or a TDD/TYY call from a TDD/TYY device,

receive an available terminal response that includes an identification of said terminal to handle said incoming call,

The Applicants submit that Reese does not teach these limitations. Reese describes a Directory Assistance (DA) service. When the DA service receives a call for a number of a party, the DA

service provides the option of automatically connecting the caller to the party. If the caller selects that option, the DA service extends the call and the number of the caller to the called party. Reese does not teach a call center for handling TDD/TYY calls as provided in claim 11. Therefore, the Applicants submit that claim 11 is novel over Reese. The same argument applies for claims 1, 9-11, 18, 20, 21, and 26.

§ 103 Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 2-7, 12-17, 22-24, 27-29, 32-33, 35-36, 38-39, and 41-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Reese and U.S. Patent number 6,137,870 (Scherer). The Applicants cancelled claims 32-33, 35-36, 38-39, and 41-42. The Applicants submit that claims 2-7, 12-17, 22-24, and 27-29 are non-obvious over the combination of Reese and Scherer because neither reference teaches a call center for handling TDD/TYY calls.

Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, the Applicants submit that claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-24, and 26-29 are allowable. There may be additional reasons in support of patentability, but such reasons are omitted in the interests of brevity. The Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-24, and 26-29.

Any fees may be charged to deposit account 21-0765.

Respectfully submitted,

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SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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